

From: root@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/4/02 7:49pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Gentlemen,

I have been a computer programmer for most of my adult life, and I have seen many operating systems come and go; but I have never seen an environment so restrictive for innovation and competition as the one currently created by Microsoft. It is true that most of the work that I do is based on Windows systems of one kind or another, but it is equally true that most of my clients would benefit greatly if other avenues were available to them on a non-restrictive basis. Please notice that I do not say on a non-competitive basis. Microsoft has managed to negotiate contracts with hardware manufacturers and software developers alike which tend to suppress competitive products-- and in many cases more able and far less expensive products.

I encourage you, as a part of this settlement, to not allow Microsoft to strongarm developers so that their products are preferentially available only to Windows users. If a developer has good economic reasons to develop only for Windows, that is one thing, but if the same developer refuses or is not allowed to develop for other environments purely because of financial or public relations threats from Microsoft, it is quite another thing, indeed.

Please pay attention to the evidence presented by the prosecutors in this trial and equitable and effective controls on the most clear monopoly of our time.

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Larry S. Cadle